

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 15 of 1898.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th April 1898.

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Lower examinations in Assam ...	ib.
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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta	25,000	2nd April, 1898.	
2	"Basumat" ...	Ditto	15,000	31st March, 1898.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	5th April, 1898.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	1st ditto.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	1,600	1st ditto.	
6	"Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000	1st ditto.	
7	"Samutthan" ...	Ditto	...	30th March, 1898.	
8	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	2nd April 1898.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	1,000	4th ditto.	
10	"Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto	.....	2nd ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	200	2nd and 4th to 6th April, 1898.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika" ...	Ditto	1,000	2nd to 6th April, 1898.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	2,000	1st, 2nd, and 4th to 6th April, 1898.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	200	1st, 2nd, and 4th to 6th April, 1898.	
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000		
HINDI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Marwari Gazette" ...	Ditto	400		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000		
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	6,500	4th April, 1898.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hablul Mateen" ...	Ditto	500		
2	"Mefta-hur-safar" ...	Ditto	.....	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
URDU.					
Weekly.					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Calcutta ...	320	31st March, 1898.	
2	"General and Gauharisafi"	Ditto ...	330	31st ditto.	
Tri-weekly.					
1	"Nusrat-ul-Islam" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
Daily.					
1	"Rozana-e-Kalkatta" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
BENGALI.					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
Fortnightly.					
1	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna ...	475	3rd April, 1898.	
Weekly.					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	572	1st April, 1898.	
2	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	240	29th March 1898.	
3	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	400	3rd April, 1898.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,350	1st ditto.	
BENGALI.					
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.					
Weekly.					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	655	30th March, 1898.	
2	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603	1st April, 1898.	
URIYA.					
ORISSA DIVISION.					
Weekly.					
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	150		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	300		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	400		
HINDI.					
PATNA DIVISION.					
Monthly.					
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	About 600		
Weekly.					
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000		
URDU.					
Weekly.					
1	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400		
BENGALI.					
BHAGALPUR DIVISION.					
Fortnightly.					
1	"Gaur Varta" ...	Malda ...	.....	
BENGALI.					
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.					
Weekly.					
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	243	23rd March, 1898.	This paper is not regularly published for want of type.
2	"Rangpur Diprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180	24th ditto	
HINDI.					
Monthly.					
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masih Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	800	1st April 1898.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.		DACCA DIVISION.			
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	755	28th March, 1898.	
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	316	28th ditto.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal ...	300		
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	28th ditto.	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	3rd April, 1898.	
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur ...	.....	1st ditto.	
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	About 500	2nd ditto.	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500		
BENGALI.		CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla ...	450	2nd fortnight of Falgoun, 1304B.S.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Jyoti" ...	Chittagong ...	.....	31st March, 1898.	
2	"Sansodhini" ...	Ditto ...	120	30th ditto.	
BENGALI.		ASSAM.			
1	"Paridarsak" ...	Sylhet ...	.....	28th March, 1898.	
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar ...	340	1st fortnight of March, 1898.	

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE *Charu Mihir* of the 28th March complains of the prevalence of highway robbery on the road between Hossainpur and the Saltia railway station in the Mymensingh district. Recently on his way to Nasirabad, Digambar De, *gumasta* of Bir Charan Saha of Kishorganj, was waylaid and robbed of Rs. 40 or 42 by the *badmashes*. Many more cases of this nature have come to the writer's notice, but as no one comes forward to lodge a complaint, the *badmashes* remain unmolested. It is clear that the removal of the Guffargaon police-station to a distance, namely, to Saltia, has increased their boldness. The attention of the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police is invited to the matter.

CHARU MIHIR,
March 28th, 1898.

2. In noticing the Wellington Square shooting case, the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 30th March observes:—

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
March 30th, 1898.

Assaults on natives by *sahibs*. A pure-blooded Saxon, an Anglo-Indian or even a Eurasian gets furious, his blood boiling, whenever he may have an occasion to deal with an unfortunate native of India. Be he a judicial or a police officer, a planter or even a beggar at one's door, a *sahib* is always apt to lose his head after the exchange of a few words with an Indian. A gun to him is what the trident was to Mahadeb, the thunder to Indra or the *gandib* to Arjun. Once his blood is up a *sahib* will assume, with his gun, the appearance of a veritable incarnation of death, no matter whether he is a civilian, a policeman or a soldier. Indians are killed or wounded by such *sahibs* by the hundred every year not only in the mufassal, but in the heart of the town as well.

3. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st April says:—

HITAVADI,
April 1st, 1898.

Gunda oppression in Calcutta. We have already referred to the oppression committed by *badmashes* at Champatala, Calcutta. We have now received complaints about similar oppression at Keranibagan and Kidderpur. Several Musalman *gundas* rob passengers at night in the lane in front of the Medical College. These *gundas* are also said to commit assaults upon women. A number of Peshwaris are living in tents at Kidderpur at a little distance from the maidan. Some of them frequently rob poor wayfarers. We draw the attention of Mr. James, the able Police Commissioner of Calcutta, to these matters.

4. Krishna Narayan Chaudhuri of Halsa, a village in the Nator subdivision of the Rajshahi district, complains of *gunda* oppression in Calcutta in the *Bangavasi* of the 2nd

BANGAVASI,
April 2nd, 1898.

Gunda oppression in Calcutta. April. The correspondent recently went from Chinsura to Calcutta on business. In the Cornwallis Street he purchased three pairs of slippers and stepped into a tram car going to Sambazar. A man dressed as a gentleman stepped into the car with him. The correspondent asked him to point out a road to Sambazar, which he did. Both of them alighted at the same time and the correspondent had not gone far up the road, when his companion charged him with the theft of slippers and raised a hue and cry which brought to the place a man in the uniform of a constable, who arrested the correspondent and took him to a house which, they said, was a police-station. Inside the house there were a number of sinister-looking men who robbed him of all he had about him and locked him up in a room the whole day. At night-fall they dismissed him with 6 annas. The correspondent being a stranger in Calcutta could not take any steps to bring the culprits to justice.

The editor draws the attention of the police authorities to the above, and calls upon them to bring the culprits to justice.

5. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* of the 3rd April complains of the conduct of the police in the Langalbandh fair. This year the pilgrims were ordered to keep their boats moored at a distance from Langalbandh. The police, however, forgot to enforce this order on the first day of the fair, and many boats had ventured up to Langalbandh. On the third day the

DACCA PRAKASH
April 3rd, 1898.

The police in the Langalbandh fair.

police enforced the order and forcibly compelled the boats to return to the appointed place where they were ordered to be moored. This caused great disorder and inconvenience.

SOM PRAKASH,
April 4th, 1898.

6. There is, according to the *Som Prakash* of the 4th April, a serious recrudescence of crime in the metropolis. *Bad-mashes* are said to be walking the streets at night. The other day there was a burglary in a house in Guru Prasad Chowdhury's Lane, and the ornaments and plates of the household deity were carried off from a room on the first floor. At noon the next day was stolen a trunk containing books, etc., of a student residing in the house opposite.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

TRIPURA HITAISHI,
2nd fortnight of
Falgun 1304 B.S.

7. The *Tripura Hitaishi* for the second fortnight of Falgun says that the people of Comilla were startled to hear of the murder of Devi Charan, a wealthy man residing in the extremity of the town, and still more startled to hear of the release of his supposed murderer. The inability of the police to apprehend murderers or secure their conviction has emboldened the *badmashes* and struck terror into the hearts of the peaceful citizens. The Sessions Judge and the assessors had, on the evidence before them, no alternative but to give the accused the benefit of the doubt and to discharge him. But why was not there sufficient evidence to ensure conviction? Why was the case committed to the Sessions before a thorough investigation had brought forward proper evidence for the committal? The place of occurrence was very near the town, and the District Magistrate himself or one of the Deputy Magistrates might have conducted the investigation, and the committing Deputy Magistrate ought to have carefully compared the medical evidence with the evidence of the alleged eye-witnesses, and, if he found the two conflict with each other, should have waited for more and better evidence and need not have been in a hurry to commit the case to the Sessions.

JYOTI,
March 31st, 1898.

8. According to the *Jyoti* of the 31st March the Subordinate Judge of Chittagong does not entertain a very high opinion of junior pleaders practising in his court. He often snubs them in public and before their clients, which has the effect of lowering them in the latter's estimation. The Subordinate Judge is also alleged to follow the reprehensible practice of relying on pleaders for the decision of the lower courts and other necessary information, instead of going through the records himself. Though this practice is said to obtain in the High Court, where the Judges have often, for want of time, to rely on vakils and barristers for such information, yet it hardly appears to be a judicious practice.

SAMAY,
April 1st, 1898.

9. Referring to a case brought by one Rahim Bux, a watch-maker in Barisal town against the District Judge of Backergunge for assault, the *Samay* of the 1st April cannot understand why it has not yet been decided. The case was filed as early as the 4th March, but it has not yet been disposed of. One word more in connection with the case. The complainant's version of the case may be exaggerated, but it goes without saying that, if the people find those whom they look upon as incarnations of justice hauled up in a criminal court, they are sure to lose their faith and confidence in them. But it is after all no wonder that the executive authorities in this country should abuse and insult the people when they see the head of the administration vilifying the natives in the Council Chamber. If Rahim Bux's version of the case be true, then it will not be an exaggeration to say that the conduct of those officials who take pleasure in venting their spleen on the natives is sure to shake the people's confidence in the British Government.

SANJAY,
April 1st, 1898.

10. While thanking the Subdivisional Officer of Madaripur for having obtained the sanction of the District Magistrate of Faridpur to the entertainment of complaints and trial of cases by the Independent Bench at Gopalganj in the Faridpur district, the *Sanjay* of the 1st April hopes that the Magistrate will appoint several other Bench Magistrates in addition to the five already appointed as such. This is said to have become necessary because, of the five

gentlemen who now constitute the Gopalganj Bench, one is almost always absent from home, and it is too much to expect the other four to sit from day to day to the detriment of their own private business. Care should, no doubt, be taken to nominate the best men available for these additional Honorary Magistrateships,—men who have both time and ability at their command to devote to their work.

11. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st April hears various complaints against Babu Kaliprasanna Basu, First Munsif of Serampore. It appears from a petition made by Raja Peary Mohan Mukerji that, on the 21st March last, the Munsif received a plaint from the hands of a pleader and threw it away, and then wrote in the order-sheet that he made over the plaint to the pleader, who threw it away. It is not easy to believe that a judicial officer can be guilty of such conduct. Kaliprasanna Babu has become very unpopular. It is hoped that he will now beware.

HITAVADI,
April 1st, 1898.

12. The *Sanjivani* of the 2nd April has the following :—
We learn on reliable authority that on the 23rd March, Mr. B. Lindsay, lately the Officiating Judge of Jaunpur and at present the Officiating Registrar of the Allahabad High Court, was entering the High Court by the Judges' Entrance when he met a native gentleman coming out. He at once assumed a threatening attitude, pushed the native back into the building by the neck, and assaulted him.

SANJIVANI,
April 2nd, 1898.

The Allahabad High Court has three or four entrances. One of these, which is used by the Judges, has the words "Judges' Entrance" written over it, but there is nothing to indicate that the public have no right to enter it. Then, again, if this entrance were meant exclusively for the Judges, why was Mr. Lindsay there? But then he is a Civilian—a god on earth, and this fact covers a multitude of sins.

The gentleman who was thus assaulted and insulted is a Government servant and a relative of a Vakil of the Allahabad High Court. It is believed that he will not move in the matter; but such cases should not be allowed to go unnoticed. The people of the North-Western Provinces should know that in Sir Antony MacDonnell they have a just Lieutenant-Governor. Our humble prayer to His Honour is that he will hold a sifting enquiry into the case and maintain the dignity of justice by awarding adequate punishment to the offender.

13. The *Bangavasi* of the 2nd April thus writes with reference to Ambika Charan Ghosh, a prisoner with eight previous convictions proved against him, who has recently been ordered by the Calcutta Police Court to furnish security for good behaviour amounting to Rs. 50 or, in default, to undergo imprisonment for six months :—

BANGAVASI,
April 2nd, 1898.

Will Ambika Charan Ghosh be able to earn his livelihood in jail? No body is likely to stand surety for him, and, after his release, he may again be sent to jail for having no ostensible means of livelihood. He will have therefore to be sent to jail again and again. Will it not be far better to make some permanent provision for his livelihood? If he be maliciously inclined to live long, he will prove a burden to the State. In our opinion it is better to make a provision for those who have no ostensible means of livelihood than to send them to jail.

14. The *Som Prakash* of the 4th April is concerned to learn that Babu Sarada Charan Mitra, Vakil, is soon going to be elevated to the High Court Bench. According to the writer, Mr. Brajendra Kumar Seal, District and Sessions Judge of Birbhum, has now the best claim to a seat on the High Court Bench. As three Judges have already been recruited from the ranks of Indian Barristers and Vakils, it is high time that native Sessions Judges were given a chance.

SOM PRAKASH,
April 4th, 1898.

15. Referring to the acquittal of Zola on appeal, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 5th April observes that the French High Court has proved superior to public feeling and state considerations, and has done justice to Zola. The decision has gratified the English public, who are well known for their love of justice. The

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 5th, 1898.

British public would no doubt have praised the Privy Council if it had acquitted Mr. Tilak.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 6th, 1898.

16. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 6th April is glad at Mr. B. L. Gupta's appointment to an Officiating High Court Judgeship, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. Justice Ghosh, but would have been gladder if a Vakil of the Calcutta High Court had been appointed to the post.

(c)—Jails.

HITAVADI,
April 1st, 1898.

A poem describing prison thoughts by the editor of the *Hitavadi*.

17. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st April publishes a poem, written by its editor in jail, describing prison thoughts.

(d)—Education.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
March 28th, 1898.

18. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* of the 28th March invites the attention of the authorities of the Education Department to the following case:—

Delay in publishing the results of the Lower Primary Examination in the Faridpur district.

In December 1896 three boys, Sitanath, Trailakhyanath and Digindraprasad, appeared at the Lower Primary Examination from Gopalpur pathsala. Nothing was known of their success or failure till May 1897, when the Sub-Inspector of Schools, while visiting the neighbouring school at Chandpur, incidentally remarked that one of these three boys had come out successful. Time rolled on, however, and another December came round, but still the result of the previous examination was not made known. Trailakhya and Digindra, therefore, appeared again at the next examination. In March 1898, both these boys were declared to have been successful in the examination of 1896. From a comparison of dates it is found that the certificates were dated the 27th August 1897 and appear to have been signed by the Chairman on the 4th June.

There is, remarks the writer, a provision to punish any person who appears at an examination in which he may have passed on some previous occasion. Who is to be punished in the present case the examiner or the examinee?

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI.

19. Referring to the retirement of Rai Saheb Dinanath Sen, Inspector of Schools, Dacca Circle, the same paper says:—

Retirement of Rai Saheb Dinanath Sen.

Rai Saheb Dinanath Sen is an able, experienced and hard-working officer. His appointment to an Inspectorship in the Education Department led the people to expect improvement in the teaching of Science and Literature, in Primary and Normal schools. All such expectations have, however, been sadly frustrated. Under him vernacular schools and vernacular scholarship examinations have been in a manner abolished. The interests of the Bengali language, which were partially injured by the European Inspector, Dr. Martin, have been ruined under his native successor in the Inspectorship.

The late Bhudev Mukharji rose to a high position in the Education Department because he fixed the pay of pandits at Rs. 15, while the European members of the Education Committee suggested Rs. 60. Similarly, the Rai Saheb probably wanted to be elevated to a still higher rank by the withdrawal of scholarships from pathsalas and vernacular schools.

When lakhs of people were dying in Orissa of famine and Sir Cecil Beadon did nothing to alleviate their sufferings, a hue and cry was raised in England against his conduct. But Bhudev Babu went from door to door to secure signatures to an address which was to be presented to Sir Cecil for his successful administration. For this piece of service, he was raised for a time to the Directorship of Public Instruction. Similarly, though the Indian public felt no respect and gratitude for Lord Dufferin, Dina Babu, with the help of some friends presented an address to his Lordship, and, as a reward, received the title of Rai Saheb. The sooner such men retire from the service the better.

JYOTI,
Marc 31st, 1898.

20. The *Jyoti* of the 31st March complains of much irregularity in the conduct of the Standard Examinations in the mufassal. Lists of candidates are prepared in a most negligent fashion, so much so that though

The Standard Examinations in the Chittagong district.

there is scarcely a school in the Chittagong district with forty boys on its rolls, and though some schools are only opened for one or two days in the month, yet the number of candidates for the Standard Examinations from any one school often reaches so high a figure as 70. In the case of girls' schools, though as a fact one cannot be started in every group of five or six villages, at the time of examination, the names of several schools figure in the list as having sent up candidates to one particular centre. It is believed that in many cases the same candidate appears twice or thrice in the examination. Rewards are thus often given to undeserving men to the exclusion of those who deserve them. The examinations too are said not to be conducted on strict principles. It happens occasionally that an examiner, after travelling a long distance, has to hold the examination at several centres within a radius of several miles. Such being the case, it cannot positively be affirmed that the questions do not become known after they have been put at one centre.

21. The same paper observes that girls should not be required to pass the same test as boys. They ought to be taught subjects which might prove helpful to them in after life, and their examination should be conducted on a quite different basis. Cases have been known in which girls, though occupying the first or second place at any particular centre, have not been awarded the first or second prize, which they should have been awarded. There are cases, again, in which, it is an open secret, others have answered the questions on behalf of girl candidates. This practice is reprehensible and unjustifiable.

22. Referring to the refusal of the Secretary of State to sanction a suitable laboratory for the Calcutta Presidency College, on the ground that six lakhs of rupees cannot be spared for the purpose in the present financial condition of the country, the *Hitavadi* of the 1st April observes as follows:—

It is a wonder that a man in the position of the Secretary of State has not hesitated to make such a reply. A Government unable to spare six lakhs for a beneficial object is wasting crores on frontier wars! How can a Government plead financial difficulty which has scornfully rejected the pecuniary aid of England in the frontier war with the boast that it can well afford to do without pecuniary assistance from England? Has not the Secretary of State given a proof of shamelessness by referring to the financial difficulty of Government?

23. The same paper complains that led by private interest and influence the Members of the Central Text-book Committee often approve of unworthy text-books, and instances "Haris Chandra Charit," a book which is disfigured by errors of fact and questionable morals, several examples of which are given.

24. The same paper publishes a cartoon in which the examiners of the Calcutta University are represented as standing with uplifted *khandas* (sacrificial knives) and awaiting the arrival of the candidates who are shown as approaching them with rueful faces and with huge piles of text-books on their heads.

25. The *Pratihar* of the 1st April says that Moulvi Abdul Karim, Assistant Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, recently visited Berhampur. Though it was his duty to visit all the *pathshalas* in the district, for which he receives travelling allowance on a liberal scale, he did not choose to leave his lodgings in the barracks. Little boys of six or seven had, therefore, to be brought to the barracks from such distances as Ghatbandar, in order that he might examine them there and do his duty of inspection.

26. A Barisal correspondent writes to the *Sanjivani* of the 2nd April:—
The examinations at Barisal. The answer books of certain Entrance candidates at the Barisal centre are missing, and this shows how the examinations are conducted there.

During the F. A. Examination, in the absence of the District Magistrate, an Assistant Magistrate was in charge of the examination hall and kept on

JYOTI,
March 31st, 1898.

HITAVADI,
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HITAVADI.

HITAVADI.

PRATIKAR,
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April 2nd, 1898.

smoking a cigar, filling the air with the strong smell of tobacco. On the day of the Science examination, one of the candidates represented to the Principal of the B. M. College that the smell was getting too strong for him. The Principal reported this to Mr. Clayton, Assistant Magistrate, who was then in charge, and asked him to desist from smoking. Mr. Clayton, however, paid no heed to the words of the Principal and went on, as usual, with his cigar-smoking.

Some of the guards at the examination also took the liberty of reading the answer books which, under the regulations, they are precluded from doing.

SANJIVANI,
April 2nd, 1898.

27. The same paper says that the Syndicate of the Calcutta University met to consider what should be done in connection with the F. A. questions on Conic sections, Chemistry, Arabic and Botany, which are said to have been set from outside the text-books. The meeting came to the conclusion that the question on English, to which exception was taken, was really from the text-book. This decision will surprise all, for the question does not occur anywhere in that volume of Tennyson's poems which forms a part of the F. A. Curriculum. A protest should be entered against the decision, for the candidates should not be made to suffer for any blunder of the Syndicate.

Then it was decided that on account of the four questions on Conic Sections to which exception had been taken, the full marks on Mathematics should be reduced by 20, so that candidates should have to secure 25 marks to obtain a pass. This too is not satisfactory, for generally candidates secure more marks in Conic Sections than in any other branch of Mathematics.

A re-examination has taken place in Botany, but nothing is known about Arabic. The examinations this year have been a huge scandal and the Syndicate should enquire as to whose fault this was due.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

SANSODHINI,
March 30th, 1898.

28. In announcing the nomination of Mr. Good as a Commissioner of the Chittagong Municipality, the *Sansodhini* of the 30th March hopes that should he be appointed Chairman, he will not be as harsh and severe towards his subordinates and the rate-payers as he was before. As he is now getting old, he should no longer be over-strict in his dealings with the public.

AL PUNCH,
April 1st, 1898.

29. *Al Punch* of the 1st April draws attention to the filthy condition of the Subjibag quarter of the Patna Municipality, and the inconvenience which is suffered by the residents of that quarter in consequence of filth being deposited by the Municipality in its vicinity. There is every danger of cholera or some other epidemic breaking out in that quarter of the town. Mr. Inglis's attention was drawn to the matter, but he has taken no steps for the removal of the nuisance.

SANJAY,
April 1st, 1898.

30. In view of cholera breaking out every year at the Goalundo ghat, the *Sanjay* of the 1st April says that care should be taken by the authorities to ensure the safety of passengers by providing for the periodical inspection of the local hotels and the eatables supplied by them.

PRATIKAR,
April 1st, 1898.

31. The *Pratihar* of the 1st April hopes that, like his predecessor, the new Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal will pay some attention to the question of water-supply in the mufassal. Although the hot season is not far advanced yet, *beels*, tanks and other reservoirs of water in the interior of the Murshidabad district are fast drying up, and the scarcity of good drinking water has come to be keenly felt in many places where the road-side wells sunk by the District Board can be of little use. The first duty of the Government is to provide the people with water, without which life becomes impossible. If the Government continues to divert the charity of the rich to other channels, there remains no chance of local needs being supplied by local charity.

PRATIKAR

32. The same paper observes that with the silting up of rivers the income of the Murshidabad District Board, which derives no mean portion of its income from ferry-toll, is gradually diminishing. What is to be feared, there-

The Murshidabad District Board's loss of income.

fore, is that, when the income falls very low, the authorities may think of enhancing the rate of toll, the incidence of which will fall on the population. It is a pity that while the Board is being entrusted with more and more duties, there is no corresponding expansion of its income; and this is what they call self-government!

33. Now that Sir Alexander Mackenzie has regretted the absence of any representative of the poor on the Calcutta Municipal Board, the Government should, says the *Sanjivani* of the 2nd April, set about nominating a few such representatives.

SANJIVANI,
April 2nd, 1898.

34. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 2nd April has the following:—
The proposed changes in the municipal administration of Calcutta. Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal have always held that the European community should have a preponderating voice in the municipal administration of Calcutta. Sir Steuart Bayley held this opinion, and Sir Alexander Mackenzie has laid great stress upon it. In His Honour's opinion it is European commerce and industry that has made Calcutta what it is. European influence should, therefore, be made absolute in the municipal administration of Calcutta. Well and good, but let us ask only one question. What did take place first—the establishment of an English factory in Calcutta or the opening of the Sutanati hat? Did the establishment of an English factory lead to the establishment of the Sutanati hat, or did the commercial facilities afforded by the Sutanati hat lead to the establishment of an English factory? That European commerce is the cause of the prosperity of Calcutta goes without saying, but commerce means dealings between two parties. Would European commerce have been possible if there had been no native merchants and traders? Would Calcutta have been made a seat of European commerce if it had not afforded ample facilities for commerce? But we should not argue with the Government; who can say that such reasoning may not amount to sedition?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 2nd, 1898.

It strikes us as strange that while in England the Government has proposed to break up the London Municipality into a group of Municipalities, here in India the Government has proposed to extend the jurisdiction of the Calcutta Municipality up to Howrah. India is not England, and the Government has, therefore, the courage to deprive the Municipal Commissioners of all their powers. We advise the Government to revert to the old system of municipal administration. During the rule of Warren Hastings, the municipal administration of Calcutta was in the hands of the police. Let this system be revived. Let official influence be made absolute in the municipal administration of Calcutta. But let us make a suggestion for a satisfactory solution of the problem. Let Calcutta be divided into two parts, and let one of these be called "White Calcutta" to be reserved for the Europeans. It will, however, be far better to shift European Calcutta to Kalagachi, thereby keeping the European community out of touch with the Native community.

35. The Bombay Improvement Act, writes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 5th April, has been passed with the exclusive support of the official members of the Council, the Governor frankly admitting that the hurry was due to the plague scare. Sir Alexander Mackenzie had set his heart upon the passing of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, and he would have been glad to see it passed before his unexpected retirement.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 5th, 1898.

(h)—General.

36. The *Hindu Ranjika* of the 23rd March has the following:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie's retirement. It is with regret that we have to announce the resignation of Sir Alexander Mackenzie on account of illness. May rest from the onerous duties he had to perform enable him soon to recover his health.

We cannot deny that we have suffered a great loss by His Honour's untimely retirement. The people of India had certainly political differences with him, and his statesmanship in introducing the new Calcutta Municipal Bill

HINDU RANJIKA,
March 23rd, 1898.

baffles their comprehension. But there is no denying that he was a straightforward politician, a real well-wisher of the country, and an administrator in no way inferior to his predecessors. Far from being a cruel ruler, he had real affection for his subjects. In fact, a man like Sir Alexander Mackenzie is rare in the ranks of the Civilians, who are mostly hot-headed and insolent with power. Never by act or word did Sir Alexander betray any hostility to high education or the freedom of the press. The people of Bengal offer him their most heartfelt gratitude on his retirement from service.

CHARU MIHIR,
March 28th, 1898.

Sir James Westland on the proposal to take pecuniary help from England.

37. The *Charu Mihir* of the 28th March does not see its way to approving either of the two reasons assigned by Sir James Westland for not accepting from England any pecuniary help for the Indian treasury. Sir James's arguments would have been pertinent if Government's debt had not increased every year, and if the people had been able to bear taxation without hardship. Nor can one appreciate the force of his argument that the acceptance of pecuniary help from England will destroy India's financial independence. The Government of India did, as a matter of fact, accept on some occasions pecuniary help from England. And the pecuniary help which it was proposed this year to take from England was to have been taken as a gift, and as such it would in no way have interfered with the existing relations between the Government of this country and the British Parliament. The truth seems to be that the Government of India is unwilling to take any pecuniary help from England lest such a course should lead the British public at any time to examine minutely India's accounts and thereby put a check upon that Government's arbitrary expenditure of its revenue.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 29th, 1898.

The budget.

38. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 29th March does not feel as much pleasure and gratification as did Sir James Westland when he introduced his budget. The one point the writer congratulates himself upon is that in spite of the millions that have been spent in meeting famine and the frontier war, no new tax is proposed to be imposed upon the people. It cannot be that the financial position of India is in any way good, considering the fact that she has constantly to borrow to make the two ends meet.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

39. The same paper has the following with reference to the Natu brothers:—

The Natu brothers.

It does not become the English Government to keep the Natu brothers any longer in prison on mere suspicion. The people of the country would have nothing to say against their conviction and imprisonment if the charges against them were proved by means of incontrovertible evidence; but surely it will not be very strange if the Indians doubt the justice and fairplay of the English nation when they find that the Natus have been kept in jail, their property confiscated, and their families left without a protector, without their going through even the semblance of a trial or without evidence being recorded against them. It is the Englishman's love of justice and fairplay which has won the devotion of the Indians. If the Natus, therefore, be deemed guilty, let them be punished, but only after a proper trial.

There is indeed no certainty about the release of the Natus. When it is not on the strength or reliability of evidence that the Government is acting, but merely on hearsay and on suspicion, they cannot expect to be set free unless and until the Viceroy and the Governor of Bombay be pleased to declare that the peace of the empire is no longer in danger. What we respectfully pray is that the authorities should take pity on the Natus and release them from captivity.

SANSODHINI,
March 30th, 1898.

Transfer of Mr. Allen, Settlement Officer of Chittagong.

40. The *Sansodhini* of the 30th March hails the transfer of Mr. Allen, the Settlement Officer of Chittagong, with mixed feelings of pleasure and pain,—pleasure at his appointment, at an early age, as the Magistrate of the 24 Parganas district and pain at losing him. Mr. Allen is described as having given entire satisfaction, both as a judicial and a settlement officer, by his uniform courtesy, ability, and benevolence. If the people of the district had got him at an earlier stage of the settlement, they would not have had the slightest reason to complain, but as it is, though Mr. Allen came towards the close of the operations, he has, in a manner, saved the district.

41. Mr. Kennedy, the District Magistrate of Comilla, who has been promoted to be the Commissioner of Rajshahi, is, according to the *Jyoti* of the 31st March, a kind, courteous and generous officer, who won the respect and love of the people of Comilla. He not only helped his subordinates when in distress with money, but even made up their differences. The larger the number of kind and generous Civilians of Mr. Kennedy's stamp, the greater will be the chance of establishing peace and good will between the rulers and the ruled.

JYOTI,
March 31st, 1898.

42. Referring to the transfer of Mr. Allen, Settlement Officer, to Alipore as Magistrate and Collector of the 24-Parganas, the same paper expresses satisfaction that though but 12 years in service, he has at once been given the charge of the first and most important district in Bengal, and hopes that continued prosperity will attend him. The future of Chittagong is intimately connected with Mr Allen's work in the district as Settlement Officer.

JYOTI.

43. The same paper says that the action of Government in not according sanction to the proposal to advance three months' salary to native clerks and other employes in the Government offices in Chittagong for the rebuilding of their houses, which were damaged or blown away by the recent cyclone, has caused the greatest disappointment to those poor men. The district authorities have been ordered to send up the names of only those who may stand in the greatest need of an advance of pay. It is a matter of pity that when lakhs are spent for the hill exodus of highly paid Civilians or for their quarters and residence, the Government should deem it proper to plead shortness of funds when prayed to grant to its poor and distressed employes a few months' salary in advance. The Lieutenant-Governor himself held out hopes that the advance would be sanctioned, but now these hopes are all dashed to the ground. The Government does not appear to realise the position of its humble servants, who have to maintain large families and provide for the education and marriage of children on such pittances as Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 a month. These unfortunate men had already sold or mortgaged whatever trinkets, etc., they might have possessed during the famine of 1896-97, and were only being sustained by the expectation of a bumper crop when the cyclone of October 1897, not only destroyed the crop but even washed away their houses. In this sorry plight they humbly sought from the Government not any gift, but merely an advance of pay, so that they might somehow shelter themselves from the inclemencies of the weather. His Honour's words reassured them, and they waited for the grant to erect their houses. They now find that they have waited in vain, and they are helpless.

JYOTI.

44. The *Basumati* of the 31st March says that though every year the people of India are allowed to see the budget, they are permitted to have no voice in its drawing up. The budget. It is also the people's privilege to hear from the Government every year that it increases expenditure for the country's good. If anybody ventures to contradict this statement and point out any waste of money, his protest goes unheeded, and he is made a laughing stock. The deficit in the present year's budget is more than Rx. 5,000,000—a deficit heavier than what has ever occurred in the Indian budget since the creation of the post of the Finance Member. Sir James Westland is to be thanked for not imposing any new tax in the face of even such a heavy deficit. It is hoped that the Hon'ble Member will do his best to make up the deficit by reasonable retrenchment of expenditure.

BASUMATI,
March 31st, 1898

45. In the opinion of the *Samay* of the 1st April, the Viceroy ought to have appointed either Mr. Stevens or Sir Antony MacDonnell to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal. Sir Antony MacDonnell had a much stronger claim to the post than Sir John Woodburn, who, moreover, has no experience of Bengal, and likes the North-Western Provinces much better than the Province which he has been appointed to rule. It was said that the Viceroy could not at present spare Sir John Woodburn, the pressure of work in his hands being very heavy. This is the reason why Mr. LaTouche has been appointed to officiate for Sir Antony MacDonnell during his leave of

SAMAY,
April 1st, 1898.

absence. If this is true, how will the Viceroy be able to spare Sir John Woodburn for the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal?

SANJAY,
April 1st, 1898.

46. The *Sanjay* of the 1st April suggests that, as the Indians do not find the English language a convenient medium through which to convey their ideas in the form of telegraphic messages, arrangements should be made for the use of the vernacular and the preparation of a special code with vernacular letters as symbols. At least an attempt should be made to see if such a scheme will succeed.

Telegraphic messages in the vernacular.

PRATIKAR,
April 1st, 1898.

47. The *Pratihar* of the 1st April gives the particulars of a case in which a telegraphic money-order is said to have been detained for several days at the Berhampur Post Office and the addressee put to great expense and difficulty to get payment of the same. A telegraphic money order was sent from Pabna on the 21st March to the address of Babu Prasanna Nath Rai, a pleader of Berhampur. It was not paid for a week, and on enquiries being made at the post office the addressee was told that no such money order had been received. Subsequently it was found that the order had reached Berhampur; and then the Postmaster told the addressee that perhaps it had been sent on to Khagra for payment. To Khagra Babu Prasanna Nath went, but only to be disappointed. On his return to Berhampur he again saw the Postmaster, who now dismissed him with the statement that the money-order had been sent to the "check" office. Babu Prasanna Nath was about to leave the office when the missing article was found in the Postmaster's own box, and the money was paid to him after all.

A postal complaint.

HITAVADI,
April 1st, 1898.

48. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st April has the following:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

Many will no doubt be glad to learn the good news that Sir Alexander Mackenzie is going to cut off his attachment and affection for Bengal and retire. We heartily wish that he may live in comfort and happiness and attain to a good old age in his native country. We are glad, it is true, at his resignation, but we are sorry to learn that he has been obliged to resign owing to ill-health. We hope that he will soon recover in the healthy climate of his native county.

We cannot say whether any other ruler ever made himself so unpopular by his acts in so short a time as Sir Alexander has done. When he assumed office the people were filled with joy, and the population of Bengal, elated with hope, welcomed him with acclamation. We were charmed with Sir Alexander's large-heartedness and sweet words, and thought that we never before had nor would ever again have so good a ruler. But we soon saw our mistake. We saw that Sir Alexander was not the man we had taken him for, that there was an undercurrent of Anglo-Indian prejudices flowing underneath his meekness and affability, and that pride, rashness and egotism pervaded the depths of his heart.

Little by little we came to form this impression and little by little all hope vanished from our heart. We knew no rest on account of our fear of the Lieutenant-Governor. We breathed freely when he went away on six months' leave. The speech made by him, after his arrival, in the Viceregal Council and the proposed municipal law have increased our alarm. That is why the news of his approaching departure has allayed our fear and instead of grieving has gladdened us.

Sir Charles Elliott was so unpopular that we could not dream that it was possible for any official successor of his to become more unpopular. But on a review of Sir Alexander's proceedings we are compelled to say that Sir Charles was a far better ruler. He had no wish to do us any injustice and used to do what he thought best. He would not listen to any officer and would personally look into everything. His views, it is true, did not agree with ours and he had many prejudices regarding us, but he used to act upon his own conviction and was not in the habit of cloaking his feelings under a guise of sweet words or of winking at what he thought wrong.

Sir Alexander was the very reverse of Sir Charles Elliott. After he had become the ruler of Bengal he was guided by the whisperings of secret counsellors. He never seemed to us to undergo even a hundredth part of the labour that Sir Charles underwent. His sweet words and affable conduct charmed people at first, but the pride of his heart became apparent at every

suitable opportunity. As ruler of Bengal, Sir Alexander Mackenzie has not been able to improve Bengal in any respect, but we fully realise the impetus given by him to the course of retrogression and decline. But it is useless to speak of these things now, for all connection between Sir Alexander and this country will soon cease.

Sir Charles Elliott, it is true, disliked the *Hitavadi*. He indeed spared no efforts to bring the *Hitavadi* under the lash of the law. Still he would listen to what the *Hitavadi* said and remedy any error or wrong when convinced thereof, and when the error or wrong was remedied the *Hitavadi* would be the first paper to which he would communicate the fact. When Sir Charles was in this country, we saw nothing but his faults. Now that he is away we see his merits. Sir Charles did not fail to contradict us when we published anything about him that was not true. Sir Alexander is a man of a different type. He never contradicts anything in newspapers, but he cannot at the same time ignore adverse criticism and vents his spleen upon his critics by indulging in abuse in the course of public speeches. The difference between the two in these respects is apparent at every step.

Neither by his efforts to relieve distress nor by his sweet words, nor indeed by anything else has Sir Alexander succeeded in pleasing the people. On the contrary he became universally unpopular for many reasons. We now realise that his health was not good. Bad health is never found to be associated with good temper. That is the reason why we often saw him do things that we never expected from him. On account of bad health he could not judge everything calmly and dispassionately. That is the reason why the public were often astonished at his acts, and the educated community were often offended by his acrid criticism. Sir Charles Elliott was the first to set the bad example of taking leave, and Sir Alexander did not hesitate to follow that example. We believe that his health is mainly responsible for his unpopularity. But our joy at his retirement is mingled with sorrow. We should have been glad if he had departed in good health.

As representatives of the people of the country we are bound to express what we really feel. That is why we say so much on this occasion. We are, we must own, personally much indebted to Sir Alexander Mackenzie. It is to him that we owe our release from jail on the occasion of the Jubilee, and that is an obligation which is not to be forgotten and which we shall never forget.

49. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 2nd April has the following:—

The discussion on the budget.

During the discussion on the budget, Mr. La Touche, who is to officiate for Sir Antony MacDonnell, did not agree with those who are sanguine of the elasticity of the Indian finances and are of opinion that the milch cow, India, can be milked and milked without causing it the least pain. We thank Mr. La Touche for his impartiality and keensightedness. Sir Griffith Evans wanted to keep the frontier tribes in check, and said that if a civilised Government did not keep down a neighbouring uncivilised tribe, the latter was sure to turn against the former and overcome it in the long run. Sir Griffith even went the length of quoting history to support his statement. Is this the reason why the civilised European has extirpated the uncivilised native of America? Has the God of the Christians sent the uncivilised tribes to the world to be subjugated and killed by their civilised neighbours? Is Sir Griffith in the habit of according to his uncivilised client the treatment which he calls upon all civilised people to accord to their uncivilised neighbours?

Sir Henry Prinsep pleaded on behalf of the hard-worked judicial officers, and asked the Government to spend more on a department which has proved a fruitful source of revenue. This threw Sir James Westland into a temper, and not being able to answer Sir Henry he vented his spleen on the poor judicial officers, who are admittedly the most hard-worked public servants, but whom Sir James Westland called a leisured class of officials who had to work much less hard than the executive officers. Sir James Westland also attacked the Permanent Settlement when Mr. Chitnavis referred to it with approbation. It is a pity that the Lieutenant-Governor was not present, or Sir James would have received at his hands a chastisement as severe as that which Mr. James

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CHANDRIKA,
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received on a previous occasion when he attacked the Permanent Settlement. Mr. Stevens ought to have answered the haughty Finance Member, who has evidently been spoiled by over-indulgence.

The Viceroy will leave India in the beginning of December, and this was the last Calcutta Session of the Council over which he was to preside. The non-official Members, therefore, did well to pay him compliments for the uniform courtesy shown to them by His Excellency. The Viceroy deserved these compliments, and he also thanked the non-official Members for their courteous and kind reference to his services as the President of the Council.

BANGAVASI,
April, 2nd 1893.

50. The *Bangavasi* of the 2nd April has the following:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie's retirement.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie's health has completely broken down, and, acting upon medical advice, he has resigned his post. On the 9th April he leaves Bombay for England after handing over the charge of his office to Sir John Woodburn.

We subject people ought not to have the presumption to criticise the merits of a Lieutenant-Governor's administration. A subject people cannot have the right to criticise the conduct of a ruler, and in their eye, therefore, there can be no distinction between good points and bad points as such in his administration. No Lieutenant-Governor has ever subjected us to nothing but ill-treatment and persecution, just as no Lieutenant-Governor has ever showered unmixed blessing upon us. To use a Bengali metaphor, our share of fodder and water has always remained and will ever remain intact, be the Lieutenant-Governor who rule over our destinies a good or a bad one. This being the case, we are not justified in calling one Lieutenant-Governor good and another Lieutenant-Governor bad. It is not also a profitable pastime, so far as we are concerned, to praise or blame an English ruler.

But we have a few words to say in connection with Sir Alexander Mackenzie. Sir Alexander knew the Bengalis perfectly well, and their merits as well as demerits were well known to him. He never hesitated to tell the truth publicly, plainly and straightforwardly. He never allowed a false sense of courtesy to stand in the way of stern and unrelenting duty. None but Sir Alexander Mackenzie could or would have delivered a speech like the one he delivered in the Viceregal Council in support of the Sedition Bill. It is true that this speech has offended our friends among educated Bengalis, one and all, and made them rave and inveigh against the speaker; but when we ask them to lay their hands on their hearts and say whether or no the Lieutenant-Governor's remarks are true, they all hang down their heads in shame. The Lieutenant-Governor told the truth, and nothing but the truth, in his famous speech, and this is why we have become so much interested in him. It is rarely that we hear our rulers telling us plain and unvarnished truth. None of them has ever tried to guide and control us, bedazzled and enchanted as we have become by the glamour of English education. It would be a great gain to us if the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal undertook to educate us and teach us to give up our irregular and undisciplined habits. It is a great misfortune that we have lost a preceptor and a guide in the retiring Lieutenant-Governor. We have drunk deep from the intoxicating fountain of English education, and have totally forsaken and forsworn all that we could call our own—we have forsaken our religion and society and forgotten our duties towards both. Is it not a good fortune that our rulers, who have given us an outlandish education and made us what we are—a strange production of nature—should now come forward to educate us properly?

Sir Alexander Mackenzie is not what is called in a Bengali proverb "a knife of sugar"—he cannot make unpleasant truths palatable to his audience. He does not know the art of deceiving his audience with false but honeyed words. It is not in his line to flatter the Babus with empty and unmeaning words, and this is exactly what has given us the greatest satisfaction.

Go, then, master, go home and pass the remaining days of your life in peace and happiness. Leave us to our fate, and do not throw in your lot with us, miserable and unhappy as we are. May you enjoy perfect health and unmixed happiness! We shall be glad to hear that you are doing well.

51. The same paper welcomes Sir John Woodburn, the new Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and hopes that Bengal will not be unhappy during his rule. Sir John is a Civilian hailing from the North-Western Provinces, and he filled many high posts before he was raised to the Chief Commissionership of the Central Provinces. His ability and efficiency soon won the admiration of the Viceroy, who made him the Home Member of his Council. Sir John Woodburn is amiable, courteous, large-hearted and calm-headed. Let us only hope that our new Lieutenant-Governor will enjoy perfect health and happiness for full five years and govern his subjects well.

BANGAVASI,
April 2nd, 1898.

52. A correspondent of the same paper writes that a post-office is badly wanted in Danrpur, a village in the Hooghly district. This village is at present served by the Senet post office, but this service is irregular and unsatisfactory. There is a *pathsala* in the village, and the *pathsala* room may serve as a room for the post office, while a small allowance will induce the *guru* of the *pathsala* to serve as a post-master. Danrpur is a well-to-do village, and a branch post-office located there is very likely to pay.

BANGAVASI.

53. Referring to the departure of the Viceroy for the hills, the *Sanjivani* of the 2nd April remarks:—

SANJIVANI,
April 2nd, 1898.

The Simla exodus. It is the custom of the gods to descend to the plains when the winter sets in on the hills and to go up again when the summer makes its appearance on the plains. What grieves us is that the gods do not realise that this arrangement proves to be a prolific source of mischief to the people of the plains.

54. The same paper publishes the letter of the Assam Government in reply to a telegram sent by it for the release of one Kusa Chandra Mitra, fraudulently recruited as a cooly, and remarks:—

SANJIVANI.

We thank the Chief Commissioner of Assam most sincerely for the enquiry he set on foot into the fraudulent recruiting of a young gentleman, which has culminated in the latter's release. We know very well that under Mr. Cotton no one will be allowed to oppress his fellow-beings without let or hindrance.

55. The same paper has the following:—

SANJIVANI.

The feelings which actuated the Bengalis when Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Sir John Woodburn assumed the reins of office were like those which a traveller feels on reaching the shade of a tree after a long walk in the sun. The Bengalis took him to be their friend in need, their support in danger, their beacon-light in storm.

Sir Alexander is a kind and frank man, and therefore does he ever love the frank and simple Bengalis. He succeeded in a large measure in sticking to his promise to abide by the advice of both Europeans and natives, officials and non-officials, in all serious questions.

In the reign of Sir Charles Elliott miscarriage of justice became a by-word in Bengal, for he wanted to lower the prestige of the judiciary by enhancing the power of the Magistrates, and he tried even to snub the High Court. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, on the other hand, has re-established the dignity and prestige of judicial officers in Bengal.

Sir Alexander has redeemed his promise to do all in his power to advance the interests of the millions placed in his charge. It is he who has made very large additions to the Presidency College laboratory, enabled Professor Jagadis Chandra Bose to visit all the celebrated laboratories of Europe, and made arrangements for the teaching of electricity and agriculture in the Sibpur Engineering College. He deserves our best thanks for his encouragement to technical and agricultural education, without which the Bengalis can never hope to shake off the poverty which now presses them down.

While in Calcutta he fell a victim to dysentery, and he wanted to improve the sanitation of the town. With this object in view, he probably argued that a few persons would be better able to carry on the administration than a large body. It is, perhaps, under this mistaken idea that he has unconsciously aimed a death blow at the root of self-government. There can be no doubt that

there are many wise sections in the Municipal Bill which will surely improve the sanitation of Calcutta. A dust storm has, however, been raised because he wants to deprive the Commissioners of all their powers. He had lately been suffering from ill-health which naturally made him uneasy, and probably it is under this feeling that he uttered what came uppermost in his mind during the discussion on the sedition law. But he is all too frank, and so at the Science Association he repudiated the idea of his ever calling the Bengalis seditious. It is his ill-health which has made him unpopular.

His successor, Sir John Woodburn, though a North-Western Provinces Civilian, is not quite unknown to the Bengalis. He is a patron of the Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School, and has given proof of his liberal views by mixing cordially with the people at various meetings and conferences. May God grant that under him Bengal will have a period of peace and contentment!

SARASWAT PATRA,
April 2nd, 1898.

56. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 2nd April strongly defends Mr. Shirres, Magistrate of Dacca, from the unjust attacks which have been levelled at him in some newspapers in regard to his arrangements at the late Langanbandh bathing festival. Mr. Shirres, as a matter of fact, did everything he could to ensure sanitation among the pilgrims and to consult their convenience, and his arrangements were so good as must elicit the praise of every right-minded man. It is a pity that he should meet with censure at the hands of unscrupulous journalists as a reward for the pains he took and the physical suffering he risked in order to be present at the festival under a midday sun in company with the District Superintendent of Police, to see that the bathing went off without a hitch. Mr. Shirres is also to be thanked for the perfect police arrangement he made at the festival. It was rumoured that a child had been killed in the crush, but no justification for the rumour has yet been forthcoming.

SARASWAT PATRA,

57. The same paper writes as follows:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie is a firm, impartial, truth-loving and plain-speaking ruler. He is not faultless, as no human being is. The province listened with hopeful joy to his utterances when he had not yet ascended the *musnud*, but was about to do so. Most sanguine hopes were formed on those utterances of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. But the glow of hope which enlivened Bengal soon faded away and the province soon fell back to the silence of dejection and disappointment. It is not easy to divine the cause of this change. In his utterances, before the assumption of the reins of government, Sir Alexander had not certainly held out any hope of raising Bengal by one sudden stroke to the highest pinnacle of improvement, nor does he now, at the time of his untimely retirement, leave it in the lowest bottom of degradation. If he has not been able to do anything substantial, that is only because he has to retire before his time.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie was undoubtedly a real friend and well-wisher of Bengal and the Bengalis, and the Bengalis, in their turn, loved and respected him with true devotion. Sir Alexander spent the greater part of the term of his service in Bengal, and he loved Bengal because he knew it and its people thoroughly. He wished to see the condition of the people of this province ameliorated, and, in consequence, what he thought good for the Bengalis he tried to carry out with the firmness of a firm and experienced ruler without heeding any opposition. He was not the man to have one thing in his heart and profess a different thing. In a word, he was a truly sincere man. It was the people of Bengal who have not been sincere to him and did not place in him the implicit trust he deserved, but were carried away by the ruling principle of the time, namely, the principle to oppose everything proposed by the Government.

A final opinion on Sir Alexander Mackenzie's measures as the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is not possible to pass, because sickness prevented him from carrying out his programme and compelled his untimely retirement. We, therefore, refrain from passing any judgment on his rule. But we must admit that his love for Bengal had in no measure abated on his succession to the Lieutenant-Governorship, and that, as the ruler of the province, he was the same man that he was when he had served it in subordinate capacities. May he live long and enjoy health after his retirement is our prayer to the Almighty

God. He should know that the people of Bengal shared with him the wrench of parting he felt at his last severance of connection with the province.

58. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 3rd April complains that Mr. Shirres, District Magistrate of Dacca, did not close his office

DACCA PRAKASH,
April 3rd, 1898.

Mr. Shirres in the Langalbandh fair.

during the Astami Snan festival, and spent his time in office inspection on those days instead of going to the fair to look after the police and other arrangements. Mr. Shirres, it is said, was not aware of the festival, and has expressed his sorrow at the mistake committed by him. He ought to have, however, kept himself acquainted with these things.

59. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 3rd April writes as follows:—

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
April 3rd, 1898.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie and his successor.

When Sir Alexander Mackenzie ascended the *musnud* of Bengal, we hoped that by his rule he would be able to please his subjects. But his subsequent acts have disappointed us. We considered ourselves fortunate in having a frank and courteous ruler, but we saw our mistake when we found a strong undercurrent of Anglo-Indian prejudice beneath that outward frankness.

Sir Alexander's last achievement in Bengal is the Calcutta Municipal Bill, and his name will for ever live in the memory of the Calcutta people if that Bill is passed into law. What a falling off is here! The man who as Secretary under Lord Ripon supported the Local Self-Government scheme, has to-day girt up his loins to strike at the root of Local Self-Government in Calcutta itself. His Honour did not certainly do well to attack educated natives. But, for all that, we must remain grateful to Sir Alexander Mackenzie for his liberation of Babu Kali Prasanna Kavyabisharad, editor of the *Hitavadi*, from prison on the Jubilee day of Her Majesty's reign. Go, Sir Alexander, go. May you enjoy health and happiness in retirement. What you have done for us has been done for the best, and we owe you a thousand thanks for that.

The coming Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Woodburn is not a bad man. He is said to be a courteous man and an able administrator. It is hoped that his five years' administration will be conducted with tact and unattended with oppression of his subjects.

60. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 6th April has the following:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 6th, 1898.

The Lieutenant-Governor on scientific education.

In his speech at the annual meeting of the Science Association the Lieutenant-Governor belittled a purely literary training and waxed eloquent over the importance and superiority of a scientific education. As a matter of fact, however, every department of knowledge is great in itself. Science is great, but so also are Literature, History and Philosophy. Huxley and Tindall are great, but so also are Shakespeare and Milton, Mill and Hamilton, Hume and Gibbon. Science is not the only source of true knowledge, and it is unreasonable to belittle the importance of the other departments of knowledge. The importance of Science has been enhanced in these days, not as a source of pure knowledge, but as a handmaid of art and industry. If you must encourage scientific education in this country, you must turn science into public utility. And this can be done only by encouraging indigenous art and industry and extending to them State protection. Science has made such a rapid advancement in England and scientific training is held in so great esteem there, simply because English art and industry are in a flourishing condition, and are being improved by Science. But where are art and industry in India? Where is the market for such art and industry? In its incipient stage an industry requires protection and encouragement. Competition is sure to kill a young and struggling industry. English art and industry would not have prospered if free trade and not protection had been the economical principle of the early British statesmen. But how can you expect to see the indigenous art and industry of India flourish when you have introduced the policy of free trade into this country and have hampered even the new rising industries with laws relating to labour which are in force in England and which have the effect of crippling a rising industry in the race of competition? This being the

case, how can you expect to enhance the importance and increase the utility of scientific education? A theoretical scientific education is not likely to prove advantageous to the Indian people.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

HITAVADI,
April 1st 1898.

61. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st April writes:—

The Calcutta Municipal Bill.

The rule is that when a Bill is introduced in Council, it should be published in English and Bengali and then placed in the hands of a Select Committee. Sir Alexander Mackenzie interprets this as meaning that a Bill is to be placed in the hands of a Select Committee after its introduction in Council and not necessarily after its publication.

The Lieutenant-Governor contends that those who are capable of pronouncing an opinion understand English, and it is therefore only waste of time and money to publish vernacular translations of Bills. Those, therefore, who arranged for the publication of such translations were, in Sir Alexander's opinion, very foolish people. If law courts and public offices act upon Sir Alexander's principle, Bengali will go out of use and much time and money will be saved.

Sir Alexander got angry to hear it complained that the Bill was being rushed through the Council. But however long it may have been before the Government, it was but lately that it came before the public. What harm would have resulted if the placing of the Bill in the hands of the Select Committee had been put off till the publication of a Bengali translation of it? The affairs of the Calcutta Municipality have been conducted with tolerable success up to this time, and a few days' delay would not have surely done any great harm. The Lieutenant-Governor has not been able to show any reason for hurry in the matter. No Lieutenant-Governor has ever found fault with the work done by the Commissioners. There is no denying that the condition of the town is improving under their administration. The administration reports of Government as well as the Municipality bear testimony to the efficiency of the Commissioners. It is the Municipal officers who are responsible for the irregularities which exist in the Municipality, and the Commissioners are the only check upon them in their irregular proceedings.

Sir Henry Harrison, the late Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, observed:—

"The rôle which the elective Commissioners of the native wards have at once assumed is precisely that of checking, watching and controlling in every way, in seeing that no expenditure is incurred without sufficient reason, or that projects of improvement are not undertaken which cannot be fully justified."

The proposed Municipal Law contemplates many changes, such as the inclusion of Howrah in the Calcutta Municipality, payment of allowances to Commissioners, stricter building regulations, and more stringent rules relating to the registration of births and deaths. But many of those who will be affected by these changes have no idea of them. Is it not a matter of regret that those ratepayers should not be given an idea of the contemplated changes by the publication of a Bengali translation of the Bill?

There are reasons to apprehend great mischief from the provision about the payment of allowances to Commissioners. Europeans are not in the habit of doing any work without remuneration, and it is with a view to induce Europeans to attend to municipal affairs that this provision has been made. But has anybody taken into his consideration the harm which the poor ratepayers will suffer from this? Sir Alexander has said that ample time will be allowed for criticising the Bill. What harm would have resulted from allowing such time for criticism before the Bill was placed in the hands of the Select Committee?

It is hoped that the native members of the Select Committee, at any rate, will try to ascertain the public opinion and do their best to mitigate the mischievous tendency of the Bill.

SAMAY
April 1st, 1898.

62. The *Samay* of the 1st April is sorry to observe that the Calcutta Municipal Bill is being rushed through the Council. It

The Calcutta Municipal Bill.

took the authorities fifteen months to draft the Bill, but it is strange that it was submitted and read at one and the same meeting,

and is to be referred to the Select Committee before another week is over. The Bill is a bulky one, and at least the non-official members of the Council ought to have been given sufficient time to master its contents. It is also a matter of regret that with regard to this Bill even the usual procedure of the Legislative Councils has not been followed. Bills are, as a rule, submitted at the first sitting, read at the second, and referred to the Select Committee at the third. It is also the usual practice to publish a vernacular translation of a Bill before it is referred to the Select Committee. One fails to understand why the usual procedure and practice have been disregarded in the present instance when no special reasons exist for justifying such action.

After giving the substance of the principal sections of the Bill, the writer observes that they all propose to deprive the Commissioners of all executive powers and vest these powers in the Chairman and other executive officers of the Corporation. The Commissioners will impose taxes and the Municipal Executive will have the power to spend the Municipal funds without the least chance of their being held accountable for what they do with the money.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

63. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 28th March says that the failure of crops in Manasgram in the Netrokona subdivision of the Mymensingh district has filled the inhabitants with despair. The Kahnai river having silted up, the Kala Bhagua *bil* could not empty its water into the stream, and could not, therefore, be cultivated. The crops raised on this *bil* used to supply food to twenty-five to thirty thousand people, who are now in great distress. The Kahnai should be opened up, or the people of these parts will suffer from scarcity next year also.

CHARU MIHIR,
March 28th, 1898.

64. A correspondent writes to the *Jyoti* of the 31st March to say that on the 22nd idem a severe hail-storm passed over the jurisdiction of the Jaldi outpost in the Chittagong district. Outside the hail lay 10 to 11 inches thick, which took five hours to melt. Some of the stones were as large as a ball weighing one seer. When it ceased raining, many persons were found on roads and in fields wounded and bruised by the hailstones. Of these several have died and the others are lying in a more or less dangerous condition. What *rubi* crop there was, has been totally destroyed, and the chances are that many deaths from starvation will now occur.

JYOTI,
March 31st, 1898.

65. One Mansar Ali, writing in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 1st April, says that the number of deaths in the Jaldi outpost of the Chittagong district from the cyclone of the 24th October last is, according to the death register, 5,272, and the number of deaths from cholera which has been raging since is 5,109 up to the 20th February last, making a total of 10,381 deaths among a population of 33,263. This number does not certainly include many deaths which have not been registered, as, for instance, deaths in the villages which have lost their *chaukidars* and *panchayets*. The situation has been rendered miserable by Government refusing help to any but its *khas mahal raiyats*. Cholera is raging still, and more than a hundred deaths are taking place every day.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 1st, 1898.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

66. The *Charu Mihir* of the 28th March has the following:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie at the Science Association.

On reading Sir Alexander Mackenzie's speech on the Sedition Bill in the Viceroy's Council, we thought that, even after his long connection with Bengal, Sir Alexander had failed to appreciate the character of the educated Bengali. He has, however, disabused us by publicly declaring, in the course of his speech at the Science Association, that the Bengalis are not a disloyal people, and that the misconception which his speech in the Supreme Council had created was due simply to the fact of his not having specified the Province to which he meant his remarks to apply.

CHARU MIHIR,
March 28th 1898.

The defects in our high education which His Honour pointed out in the course of his speech at the Science Association are real defects, and it speaks much for Sir Alexander's knowledge of the country that he has come to perceive that its people want even the bare necessities of life. The English rulers were not mistaken, though some suppose they were, in giving high education to their Indian subjects. An enlightened Government like the British Government of India could not, in fact, do without spreading education among its subjects, and now that the Government's attention has been directed to the material backwardness and poverty of the people, it will certainly take steps to remove that evil, because poverty of its subjects is not only opposed to its own material interests, but is a stigma on British rule. The educated classes of this country are now simply ground down under poverty, and it is clear that the reading of Shakespeare, Milton and Byron alone will not increase India's material wealth. We do not grumble, because Government does not supply us with the means of livelihood. But we cannot admit that we alone are responsible for our poverty. In every country the Government is held more or less responsible for the poverty of its subjects.

The English have merely to wish it, and they can show us the right path of education. If the English Government trusts us, it can do for us what Japan has done for its subjects. Training in the useful and industrial arts has elevated Japan to its present prominent position among the nations of the earth, and the English Government can in similar manner do immense good to its Indian subjects by sending selected Indians to England, America, Germany, France and Italy for the best technical instruction that each of those countries has to impart. Sir Alexander Mackenzie will earn an immortal name for himself if he can initiate a policy like this. The people are grateful to His Honour for the pains he is taking to introduce the teaching of science and the arts in the Province. But the sort of technical education which is imparted in the one or two technical schools which have been established in the mufassal will not remove the country's wants. It is a matter of congratulation that Sir Alexander Mackenzie has realised what the country needs, a scientific education capable of producing practical results.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 29th, 1898.

67. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 29th March says that the speech of Sir Alexander Mackenzie at Dr. Sircar's Science Association has removed the impression that His Honour is a staunch supporter of the sedition law and an enemy of native newspapers and high education. Every one will now be convinced that Sir Alexander is a true friend of the Bengalis, and by no means an enemy, though he may not possibly agree with every one and in everything. His plain speech has given satisfaction to all, for they now know the mind of their ruler.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
March 30th, 1898.

68. According to the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 30th March, the Indians, who used formerly to believe that if the ruler spoke ill of them at times, it sprang from a paternal feeling, have now come to realize that the rulers regard them in the light in which thieves and robbers are regarded by policemen. The castigation which the Indians receive at the hands of their English masters proceeds not from love but from suspicion and a fear of sedition. True, there are noble Englishmen who sympathise with them and say that the seemingly distrustful Government, the people's *ma-bap*, will soon return to their normal frame of mind. It is a matter of some relief that Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who abused the Bengalis on several occasions recently, has after all treated them to other meanings of the objectionable words used by him, so as to take away the sting from them. There need be no wonder that Sir Alexander has repented of his past conduct, but he might have refrained from inflicting a political speech on his audience at the Science Association.

HITAVADI,
April 1st, 1898.

69. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st April writes as follows:—
Many Europeans think it manly to traduce the Bengalis as cowards, although that charge is nothing new. The vituperation of Bengalis in the last February number of the *Travel*, an English monthly, has not therefore surprised or irritated us. The writer of the article observes:—

Two English travellers on Bengali cowardice.

"The Bengali is the greatest coward in India. As a consequence, Bengal contributes not a single soldier to our Indian native army. A Sikh soldier could put a village to flight, and a European with a revolver could hold ten thousands at bay. Two of us struck terror into the heart of every Bengali we met. If he was sufficiently awake to see us a couple of hundred yards off, he would grip the tail of its oxen and send them dancing into the thicket until man, oxen and cart would jam between tree trunks. The best service we could do was to ride on and take no notice. When we stopped, the wretched Bengali would begin trembling all over, and, clasping his hands together, beseech us pityingly to spare his life. When the Bengali did not see us till we were upon him, he was transfixed. He would do nothing. He sat and looked at us. 'Get out of the way,' we shouted in Hindusthani. But never a movement. One evening at dusk we saw twenty bullock carts. We were not quite sure about the road, so we dismounted to ask. Not a word could be drawn from the Bengali driver, but 'Saheb, Saheb,' in whining tones, accompanied by pressing the palms of the hands together in a praying attitude. In a week we managed to get a full-blooded, loathing contempt, for these cringing wretches who have not the courage of the often-quoted worm. You may tread on them as much as you like without any prospect of their ever turning."

The writer proceeds to show his contempt for Bengalis with such slight experience that it is idle to argue with him. His experience of the Bengali resembles the experience of an elephant which was acquired by several blind men. There is, therefore, nothing to be surprised at in his ignorance or impertinence. The backs of those foolish and senseless people who delight like him in painting the Bengali as a coward are not worthy of the Bengali's lash. There are still a few Bengalis who, cudgel in hand, can keep ten Europeans at bay. But we know that the race of such Bengalis will soon disappear. How many are there who see that it is owing to a certain class of Englishmen that the Bengalis are compelled to be cowards?

There are, it is true, no Bengalis in the English army, but English and not Bengali cowardice is responsible for this. The redoubtable writer of the article is not aware that Englishmen do not wish to teach Bengalis military tactics and practically shut them out of the army because they are quick-witted and can easily imitate everything. Nor has he seen any proof of the skill or strength of Bengali athletes, Bengali riders and Bengali *lathials*. From the example of a few village carters, the sensible writer has set down the entire population of the province as cowards. If the absence of Bengalis from the army be a sign of cowardice, it is the officials who hesitate to admit Bengalis into the army, and not the Bengalis themselves that are guilty of such cowardice. Does the writer of the article know that Lieutenant Suresh, who has astonished many by the powers displayed by him in Brazil, is a Bengali? He does not also know that there is no adequate provision for giving suitable food and pay to Bengalis in the army.

Did the redoubtable travellers consider why it was that poor villagers fled at the approach of Europeans, and were seized with consternation in speaking to them? Indeed, these Bengali Hindus and Musalmans are not alarmed at the sight of, and do not flee before, the stalwart Afghan. Why are they then unnerved with fear at the sight of Englishmen? Why do they tremble at the sight of a coat and a hat, who are not alarmed at the sight of the tall Afghan? On enquiry, the cause of this will be found in English cowardice. If there had not been a class of Europeans too ready to deny commission of offences, and influenced by partiality for their countrymen, to trample upon truth and justice in order to save guilty Europeans from punishment, poor Bengalis would not have fled at the sight of Englishmen. The Bengali knows that if he beats a European, he is sure to be imprisoned, whereas if a European ruptures his spleen, the offender is sure to escape with impunity. It cannot be said what courage the redoubtable travellers would have displayed under similar circumstances.

Indeed, at the present time success in warfare depends on skill and not on physical strength. With a gun the weak Bengali is quite as formidable as the powerful Afghan, and that is why there are no Bengali soldiers in the army. Again an impression has gained ground in the mind of the people that in the event of a quarrel between Bengalis and Europeans, it is idle for the

former to expect justice. Can Bengalis be anything but cowards under these circumstances?

We do not say that there is not a particle of truth in what the redoubtable travellers have said. We are really becoming weak and cowardly owing to the distrust, cowardice and heedlessness of several English officials. On account of their indiscretion, we have not the strength to lift up our heads. Nor have we the leisure for reflection or the means of living a happy life. Several brutal officials make a display of brute force, and thereby disregard the cardinal principle of British rule; and, in order to assert their authority and make a parade of their prowess, these officials do not scruple to oppress the people. For various reasons our courage and strength are not being developed, but are on the contrary decreasing, so that we are becoming more and more worthless. It is therefore in one sense true that we are a race of cowards. Still we do not despair. The system of administration which has reduced us to this sad plight cannot last in any country on the face of the globe. That is why we desire the introduction of liberal principles in the administration. We hope that large-hearted rulers like Lord Ripon will come, that justice will become more possible, and that hopes of national progress will be awakened. In short, when the English public will become a little more attentive to the administration of India and will have greater facilities for learning its true condition, then only will our condition be changed, our courage and strength increase, and we shall be able to boast of being British subjects.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 2nd 1898.

70. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 2nd April complains that about this time every year cholera breaks out in villages on the banks of the Hooghly up to a certain distance in the north. The epidemic has already broken out in Ariadaha and other villages. It is said that this outbreak of cholera is due to the water of the river being fouled by the filth of the mills on the river banks. This insanitary state of things should be removed.

BANGAVASI,
April 2nd, 1898.

71. The *Bangavasi* of the 2nd April has the following:—

The last session of the Viceregal Council.

The session of the Viceregal Council came to a close on Monday last. The storm of speech-making rose to its climax on that day, but all has become calm and quiet again. The Viceroy and his party have left Calcutta, and the Commander-in-Chief has lied to the hill. All the big officials are leaving the metropolis one by one, and the Bengali clerks have bid adieu to their wives and are prepared to go. The Howrah station is being every day crammed with Babus and European officials bound for Simla. But what is it that has put these people to flight? The unbearable heat of the summer is the answer—the summer which, so to speak, rules Calcutta jointly with the Viceroy, and on whose approach the Viceroy betakes himself to the summit of the Simla hill.

Let us take a stock of our gain and loss during the last session of the Viceregal Council. The first thing that we gained during this session was a host of new and strange laws, and the next thing that we gained was abuse given without stint. The reader has perhaps witnessed a sumptuous feast given to a thousand Brahmans, all sitting in one line and doing full justice to the dinner. On such an occasion silence reigns supreme, disturbed only by a smacking sound coming from the guests. At the last session of the Viceregal Council the whole Indian nation were indiscriminately served with the delectable dish of abuse, and we drank long draughts of it. Those who are accustomed to the eating of bitter things have highly relished the abuse, but those who are not have resented it with tears in their eyes. This abuse has, of course, highly offended the Babus, and they have spoken out against it with a vengeance. In fact, the last legislative session was a session of speech-making for the Babus, and they have made speeches in the Legislative Council, in the Town Hall and at the Conference of the British Indian Association. But all was in vain. The Government remained as unmoved and unshaken as the *Siva linga*. It is thus quite clear that the last session has been entirely to our advantage and immense has been our gain. We have, for instance, gained the Criminal Procedure Act, the Sedition Act, the Post-office Act, and the Stamp

Bill. Our last gain has been the Budget. Last year the summer gave us the famine, the Tala riot and the earthquake. May we be spared such afflictions this year!

72. A correspondent of the same paper takes exception to the article "India not poor, but wasteful" published in its last issue (see Report on Native Papers for 2nd April, paragraph 61). In the opinion of the correspondent India is not purposely and knowingly wasteful. The wastefulness of the Indian is due to his growing love for western luxury, and this love for luxury is due to the advancement of British commerce in this country. The English merchant is draining away the resources of the country, while the English law has made it necessary to go to law for trifling purposes. The European exporters of food-grains send out their agents to make advances to the raiyats, and even District and Subdivisional Magistrates have been known to induce the raiyats to take these advances. The present system of paying the land revenue in coin is also telling heavily on the raiyat from a financial point of view, and he is getting entangled in the meshes of the money-lender. Many of the raiyats, again, are leaving the plough and working in mills and factories and tea-gardens. About a lakh of people have become homeless in this way. To tell the truth, the Indian people have fallen upon evil days, and there is nothing to rescue them.

The editor makes the following remarks upon the above:—

It is true that our extravagance is due to circumstances over which we have no control, but that is no reason why we should not try to reform our evil habits and become thrifty and wise again. It is our firm conviction that our misery may to a large extent be mitigated if we give up our luxurious habits and obey the dictates of the *sastra* in our daily life. The English Government has given us peace and tranquillity, and we should not lose this golden opportunity of setting our house in order. Our misery, we repeat, is due not to poverty but to wastefulness, and the sooner we mend our habits the better.

73. The *Hitaishi* of the 5th April does not support the *Bengalee* in its request to the native nobility not to subscribe to the fund for erecting a statue in honour of Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

A memorial statue in honour of Sir A. Mackenzie.

Sir Alexander may have been guilty of exaggeration or, mistaking an imaginary evil for a reality, he may have used abusive language towards the people, or, again, he may have been led to strike at the root of Local Self-Government by launching his Municipal Bill. He is still an object of our love and respect. He has always enjoyed the reputation of being a good administrator, and has done great good to the country. The extension of the jury trial, the relief of distress, the release of a convict journalist, the establishment of agricultural classes in the Sibpur Engineering College, all these bear testimony to his virtues.

74. Referring to the rumour that a memorial will be given to the retiring Lieutenant-Governor by the British Indian Association, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 6th April observes that Sir Alexander Mackenzie is entitled to the respect and reverence of the people, but not to their love. The British Indian Association is at liberty to show His Honour reverence and respect, but not love, in the name of the Bengali public.

The British Indian Association's memorial to the retiring Lieutenant-Governor.

Lieutenant-Governor by the British Indian Association, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 6th April observes that Sir Alexander Mackenzie is

ASSAM PAPERS.

75. A correspondent of the *Silchar*, for the first fortnight of March, says that the extension of the Assam-Bengal Railway to Badarpur has not much benefited the people of Hailakandi in Cachar, the new station being 17 miles from Hailakandi. Though there is a station at Salchapra, that is, too, twelve miles from Hailakandi. There ought to be a station at the mouth of the Dholeswar river. Such a station will be a boon not only to the residents of Hailakandi, but to the traders of the subdivision and the tea-planters whose gardens are situated on the bank of the river. A memorial, strongly supported by the Subdivisional Officer, was submitted, but the Traffic Manager took no action upon it.

A new station wanted on the Assam-Bengal Railway.

BANGAVASI,
April 1st, 1898.

HITAISHI,
April 5th, 1898.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 6th, 1898.

SILCHAR
First fortnight of
March, 1898.

PARIDARSAN,
March 28th, 1898.

76. The *Paridarsan* of the 28th March says that the European officials in Sylhet do not attend cutchery in time, and are frequently found absent. The evil has become very marked since the establishment of the local club. But though not attending court in time, they are all found to have left it, and riding, driving or playing polo before dusk.

PARIDARSAN.

Irregular attendance of officials
in Sylhet.

77. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the ill-treatment to which the Sub-Registrar of Sylhet subjects all who come to have documents registered before him. Women who come for such registration and wait on the river in their boats are, in particular, put by him to the greatest inconvenience. They can, in fact, seldom get their business done in one day. The Sub-Registrar makes them wait for several days before attending to their business, and abuses anybody who urges him to be speedier in such cases.

The editor is sorry to hear such a complaint against an officer who has all along been respected in Sylhet.

PARIDARSAN.

78. A correspondent of the same paper draws attention to the delay in publishing the results of the primary and middle vernacular examinations in Assam, and attributes it to the circumstance of a large number of clerks of the Director's and Inspector's offices having been appointed examiners. Delay under the circumstances is natural, seeing that the clerks have to attend to their office duties besides examining papers. The clerks now employed in the Director's office have no educational qualification, and it is nothing but jobbery and the absence of the permanent Director which enabled them to get the examinations. And though they have selected for themselves easy subjects like dictation, mental arithmetic and hygiene, it will be foolish to suppose that, unconnected as they are with any actual educational work, they will be able to conduct the examinations satisfactorily.

PARIDARSAN.

79. The following English article is taken from the same paper and is in continuation of an article in a former issue (Report on Native Papers for 26th March, paragraph 69):—

Sylhet in Assam.

It has been an avowed principle of the Government of India that in the distribution of the loaves and fishes of the State, other things being equal, the fruits of the soil should be to the children of the soil. In other words, in the case of equal qualifications, preference should always be given to one who is a native of the soil. It was once observed by the Governor of a province that Government must have for its works the best materials available, and that it cannot afford to sacrifice the efficiency of the service to the extension of State patronage to a less-advanced section of the community in spite of their loud professions of loyalty and contentment. This is a sound principle enunciated in plain and unequivocal terms, but it is one thing to enunciate a principle and quite another to follow it in practice. We are therefore sorry to find that the same noble Governor had to depart from this healthy principle for the sake of what is called in our council-language "State reasons," and to make concession to the growing influx to official favouritism in making the lucrative appointments in the State—and the competitive system of examination introduced by Sir George (then Mr.) Campbell has become a practical farce: competition has had to make room for the primrose path of selection.

If such things could be possible in the most enlightened province of the empire, viz., Bengal, it would be no surprise to learn that favouritism reigns supreme in the benighted province of Assam. This will be clear from an examination of the principles, if any, which underlie the making of appointments in the Provincial Civil Service.

It has been laid down in the Executive Manual published under the authority of the Administration of Assam that officers in the Provincial Civil Service are to be recruited from among (1) the graduates of the Indian Universities, and (2) Sub-Deputy Collectors who have graduated or have done exceptionally good service, and that other things being equal, preference would always be given to the natives of the province. That this principle has been honoured more in the breach than in the observance would appear from the following incontrovertible facts:—Of the 32 officers in the Provincial Civil

Service, not less than 18 are other than the natives of the province, and of the rest who are natives of the province, 11 belong to the Brahmaputra Valley and only 3 are *bond fide* natives of the Surma Valley districts. Of these 3, one has been recruited from the police force, another from the ministerial line, and the third, who is a distinguished graduate of the Calcutta University was at first taken in as a third-grade Sub-Deputy Collector and was afterwards elevated to the Provincial Civil Service in the usual course of promotion. It has never been the lot of a single graduate of the Surma Valley to get into the Provincial Civil Service *direct* from the Bar or from any other field of work, whereas of the 11 E. A. C's. who hail from the Brahmaputra Valley, 7 are unknown to any academical distinctions, and of the remaining 4 who are graduates of the Indian University, Mr. Abdul Majid was taken in 1892 from the Gauhati Bar, Munshi Mahib Uddin Ahmed was taken in the same year from the Jorhat Bar; and only last year Babu Uttam Chandra Das, pleader of the Dhubri Bar, was favoured with an appointment in the Provincial Civil Service.

It must be admitted on all hands that education has advanced with rapid strides in the Surma Valley districts, owing chiefly to the facilities afforded by the Administration of Assam by liberal grants of scholarships and similar other incentives. And the result has been that during the last decade the number of graduates has increased by leaps and bounds. So much so that the number of those who have obtained the degree of Master of Arts would come up to 15 as against 1 in the Brahmaputra Valley, whereas the number of B. A's. in the Surma Valley districts would far exceed the number of graduates in the Brahmaputra Valley.

But the Administration of Assam has not thought fit to extend its patronage to the qualified graduates of the Surma Valley districts by allowing them to participate in the loaves and fishes of State. They have therefore been under the painful necessity of seeking their fortunes outside the four corners of the Province—the sea drives them to the barbarians and the barbarians drive them back to the sea. In other provinces they are summarily rejected as not being *bond fide* natives of the province, and in their own province they are scornfully passed over.

In view of these circumstances, we beg leave to appeal to the justice and generosity of the benevolent ruler of our Province, whose large-hearted sympathy towards the educated classes is well known, to extend his kind patronage to the qualified natives of the Surma Valley districts. We do not plead for favour, but we seek justice at his hands. We have profound faith in his august impartiality. The Provincial Civil Service as at present constituted is awfully undermanned by fourth-rate mediocres, and we beg leave to pray that the efficiency of the service would be maintained by the selection of qualified graduates, who not only possess sound health and good physique, but have also acquired a sound knowledge of law and literature as well, so that Government may have for its works *the best materials available*.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 9th April 1898.

